

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 10, 16 to 18 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, specifically referring to claims 1, 16 and 25. Attorney for applicants wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful attention given to the wording of the claims and, in response, claim 1, line 1 has been amended to delete reference "of the type". Claim 16 has been amended to be dependent from claim 15 so as to provide proper antecedent basis for "said outer row of said cam faces" in line 2. Similarly, claim 25 has been amended to be dependent from claim 24 to provide proper antecedent basis for "said concentric rows" in line 4. In addition, the Specification has been amended to avoid recent objections by the Federal Circuit to phrases such as "according to the invention", "of the invention", as well as making reference to "objects of the invention" in the Summary.

Claims 1, 4 to 7, 9-10, 22-23, 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Maimone ('056). Specifically referring to claim 1, it is true that there are similarities between Maimone and applicants' centrifugal clutch as claimed but it should be noted that, in addition to the cover 26 and pressure plate 16, a release plate 18 is required in Maimone which is fixed for rotation with the clutch hub 20 and which is

movable between a first position so that engine torque is transferable from the drive portion to the driven portion and a second position so that no engine torque is transferable from the drive portion to the driven portion. In the clutch as recited in the concluding paragraph of claim 1, the resilient biasing means are interposed between the cover and the retaining means and undergo compression in response to outward movement of the cam members when the force exerted on the clutch members equals the force exerted by the resilient biasing means on the pressure plate and retainer means. Maimone, on the other hand, not only requires the release plate in addition to the cover 22A and retainer means 28, 46 but the release bolts 92 and release springs 94 located outside of the cover 22A to resist the force of the pressure plate 16.

The foregoing applies with equal force to dependent claims 4-7 and 9-10.

Further, with respect to claims 22 and 23, it is submitted that Maimone is lacking in any suggestion of the cam guide means between the pressure plate and cover for guiding the radial movement of the cam members. It should be allowable for the same reasons as allowable claim 2; and further lacks the same relationship between the pressure means between the cover and pressure plate to prevent shock loads from being imparted to the clutch members when the clutch members are in clutching engagement with one another for very much the same reason as discussed in relation to claim 1. Claim 23 brings out the same distinction

between applicants' invention and Maimone but in more specifically reciting a pressure plate at one end of the clutch members which includes spring means biasing the pressure plate in an axial direction away from the clutch members, whereas in Maimone the release plate functions in a somewhat different manner but is also positioned at the end of the clutch members rather than the pressure plate.

Claim 25 as indicated earlier has been amended to be dependent from claim 24 which in turn is dependent from claim 23 and should therefore be allowable on the same grounds as claim 23 discussed above but also where being dependent from allowable claim 24.

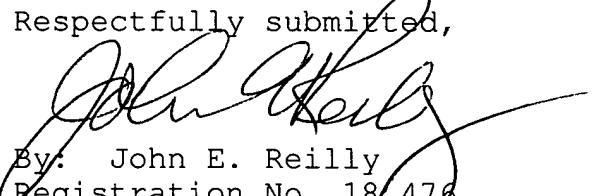
Claim 27 is dependent from claim 23 and should be allowable. In this relation, claim 27 has been amended to recite "spring means" rather than "pressure control means" in order to be consistent with claim 23.

It is acknowledged that the Examiner has indicated claims 11 to 15 and 19 to 21 to be allowed, and claims 24, 26 and 28 to 30 to be allowable if written in independent form. However, for the reasons given, it is submitted that applicants' clutch as claimed is clearly and patentably distinguishable over Maimone as well as the other prior art of record.

It is therefore urged that the claims as now presented for consideration are in allowable condition and action to that end

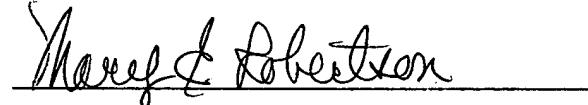
is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, it is requested that the Examiner contact attorney for applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, this 4th day of August, 2005.


Mary E. Robertson